

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

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The development of new homes in and around the northwest portion of the San Fernando Valley is raising concerns about preserving trails used by equestrians and hikers. Some of these trails are dedicated trails created and maintained by various public agencies, such as the County of Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Other trails are on private properties but have nevertheless been historically utilized by the public.

The County's dedicated trails are identified in the Master Plan of Riding and Hiking Trails, which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors as an amendment to the County's General Plan. Based upon this Plan, the County's Department of Parks and Recreation is authorized to condition developers to provide easements, dedications, and improvements as a component of the County's subdivision review process.

The public is concerned that long-standing trails will be eliminated due to new development, creating "gaps" or otherwise preventing connections among existing trail networks. It is therefore important to update a portion of the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Riding and Hiking Trails for the northwest San Fernando Valley community. The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation needs to work with local community groups, equestrians, and property-owners to plot the location of all dedicated County trails and historic trails on a map. The Department and the community should also work to promote the dedication, construction, and maintenance of a regional trails system for hiking and equestrian use, one that inter-connects all of the public trails maintained by various public agencies.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Departments of Parks and Recreation, to establish a committee within 30 days; composed of trail users, equestrians, and property-owners to study the trail corridors in and around the northwest San Fernando Valley and update the County's Master Plan of Riding and Hiking Trails for this region.

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